

TOGETHER WE CAN....

Whereas:

- ◆ More youth will die as a result of underage drinking than from all other drugs combined this year;
- ◆ Alcohol addiction can develop after 5-15 years of heavy drinking in ages 21 and older, after 5-15 months of heavy drinking in senior high, and after 5-15 weeks of heavy drinking in junior high;
- ◆ Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for school-age youth (8-12 grades) in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties;

Therefore, We the people of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, commit ourselves to reducing the use of alcohol by children and teens in our communities through advocacy and education, including:

In the COMMUNITY domain:

- ◆ A community-supported, well trained START (Stop Teen Alcohol Risk Team) team that intercedes in potential and actual underage drinking situations before it's too late;
- ◆ Knowledge of and 100% compliance with laws and ordinances governing sales to underage drinkers and effective strategies for deterring of-age customers from buying for minors;
- ◆ Education for liquor license holders and their employees, including underage employees, regarding support for compliance and penalties for non-compliance with state and federal laws.

In the SCHOOL domain:

- ◆ Clear, consistent, well-reasoned disciplinary policies and procedures that address underage drinking and drug use in Franklin and Grand Isle County schools;
- ◆ Commitment by schools to educate students and parents about these policies and procedures;
- ◆ Demonstrated consistent, fair, and unbiased application of these policies and procedures, disciplinary actions for underage drinking that recognize underage drinking as an illegal act and impose universal consequences, referral, assessment, education, and rehabilitation relevant to the offense.

In the FAMILY domain:

- ◆ Parent access to the child-rearing skills, knowledge, and resources that will reduce the likelihood of underage drinking by their children;
- ◆ Support for the value of realistic boundaries and expectations in helping kids make safe choices about alcohol and other drugs;
- ◆ Knowledge of and adherence to the laws about furnishing alcohol and hosting under-age drinking parties.

In the INDIVIDUAL domain:

- ◆ Pre-prom education and activities that encourage an understanding of underage drinking law and their rationale, nonjudgmental, science-based, factual education on short- and long-term risks of drinking, skill-building opportunities that encourage responsible decision-making;
- ◆ Friendly, informal supervision in parks and public places;
- ◆ Recognition as valuable, contributing members of the community whose well-being matters.

Agreed to by:

(By signing below, I consent to the publication of my name and/or signature in connection with the proclamation above.)

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Please check one: ☐ Under 21 years of age ☐ Over 21 years of age

Town of Residence: _____

Please return this signed document to:

Beth Crane, Coordinator
Franklin County Caring Communities Project
12 North Main Street, Suite B
St. Albans, Vermont 05478